

Our Light

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*Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105*

October 2011

The United Methodist Parish Newsletter
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury

Whether you are a member of the Middlebury or East Middlebury congregation, a local resident, or a visitor to our area, you are invited and welcome to attend and participate in all activities and events mentioned in this newsletter.

From the Pastor

I have always enjoyed autumn. I love the cooler temperatures, especially at night – good sleeping weather. I love to watch the leaves turn red, yellow, orange, and begin to fall off the trees. It is a season of preparation, as squirrels begin to store up nuts for the winter, and people begin to think about all-weather tires and snow shovels. It is when pumpkins and mums decorate yards and porches, when cider tastes good hot or cold, and when holiday plans begin to be made. It is a time of settling down and settling in.

I feel like I have settled in here in Middlebury. I am so comfortable with all of you, and hope you feel comfortable with me, as well. I am getting to know you and love you. I am learning where I put things when I unpacked them, and my dogs are getting used to the traffic noises. It is beginning to feel like home.

I think that God did a good job in creating seasons of the year. We would get bored if we always had summer, and tired of the heat and humidity. The colors of autumn are beautiful to look at, but raking leaves is only fun for just so long. We would be stir-crazy if it were always winter, and you can only shovel so much snow before you really begin to think of moving to Florida. The spring is such a nice relief when it brings warmth and flowers, but those of us with seasonal allergies couldn't stand it all the time. Each season brings its joys and blessings; but isn't it great that we have four of them, each one so different?

God created seasons in our lives, too. We live through childhood and adolescence, adulthood and middle age, retirement and old age. Each season brings its special joys and blessings, but again, isn't it nice that we don't remain in one all our lives? Can you imagine being sixteen forever? Not only do the seasons of life change with the passing of time, but with our various experiences, too. Changes in financial status, relationships, jobs, and homes bring their own kinds of wonders.

I am so grateful for the variety we experience in life, in the world, in relationships, in our spiritual lives. Isn't it wonderful that everyone doesn't agree with me? Isn't it wonderful that other people have other perspectives, other gifts, other life experiences? And yet, when we are church together, all those differences and varieties create one body, one community with common goals and priorities and commitments.

World Communion Sunday is one of my favorite Sundays of the year, as we remember just how big and varied the Christian Church is. When we celebrate the sacrament, I think of all the other followers of Christ around the world who are doing the same thing in their own way. I imagine that, on that day, someone somewhere is receiving communion every minute of the day.

Celebrate the variety in life, and in the church. We may be different, but we are all part of the same Church.

Peace, Pastor Elisabeth

Middlebury Renewal Process

The Middlebury church has begun a renewal process based on the book *Pathway to Renewal* by Daniel P. Smith and Mary K. Sellon. The pastor is lining up a renewal team to lead us through this time of planning for our church's future. This team will be officially elected by the Administrative Council and Charge Conference. We will be working with the various committees and with all the church members to begin forming a vision for our congregation which will guide us in all our mission and ministry. We will be soliciting input from the congregation at various points along the way. On Sunday, September 25 we began by having a brainstorming session after church. This event was well attended and lots of productive discussion took place. For those who were not able to be there, here is a list of the questions that were discussed. We would love to have your input as well, so if you would like to answer them and return them to Pastor Elisabeth in either hard copy or by e-mail, it would be great.

1. How did you first come to this church? Why do you stay?
2. If you were asked to describe our church in one word or phrase, what would it be?
3. What is the most fulfilling aspect of our congregation for you? What groups of people in our community might have a need for that?
4. Recall a moment when you experienced this congregation really "being church." Describe that experience.
5. What difference would it make in our community if our congregation ceased to exist? Who would miss it? What would they miss?
6. Assuming money were no object, what is your greatest dream for this church?

Spirituality Notes

When we met in September we decided to meet twice a month this year. The meeting days in October are the 4th and the 25th. We will meet at the church until the cold weather comes. Once cold weather arrives we will meet in members' homes or possibly in the small front room, where we can use a small heater if we need to.

For now we will be studying the scripture from the Sunday before the meeting and Elisabeth's sermon topic. The women of the bible and special studies of other bible characters are also topics we would like to consider.

"Our Light" Publisher Needed

Interested in desktop publishing? Like graphic designing? Ready to take on a new role in your church? We are looking for someone to volunteer to take on the responsibility of publishing the monthly "Our Light" newsletter. No writing of articles necessary! Articles are sent via email and then put together in a newsletter format. Currently, the newsletter is created in Microsoft Publisher, but could be done using virtually any computer program that you are familiar with. Current time commitment is 4-5 hours once per month. If interested, please contact Pastor Elisabeth.

Middlebury UMW Notes

We ended September with a well-received dinner for the PrimeTimers visiting Vermont. Everyone enjoyed the food and the good company.

October is our big Rummage and Bake Sale. This year it will be held Friday October 21 from 9:00-5:00 with a bake sale from 9:00-1:00. It will also be held on Saturday (\$2.00 Bag Day!) from 9:00-noon with the bake sale from 9:00-noon. You can bring donations anytime in October. Call Mimi at 388-6016 if the church is locked. Attention Bakers: Please see Mimi if you can donate baked goods for the bake sale.

We will be holding our October UMW meeting at the church Monday, October 17 while setting-up for the sale.

News from East Middlebury

The Trustees in East Middlebury report that they are looking for wood donations for next year--we'd like to go ahead and get some green wood in so we can let it dry for next winter. We think we have enough to get us through this year--we'll be close anyway. The upstairs renovations have been completed.

East Middlebury will again be hosting a coat/warm clothing drive: November 20, time TBA and the Women's Group Soup and Bake Sale and Bazaar will be on November 12 from 9 to 2 at the East Middlebury church.

A Sincere Thank You

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who was so kind and supportive to me during my recent hospitalizations and surgery. Special thanks to:

- * Don, because he was my rock and support through the summer, and continues to watch over me.
- * Pastor Elisabeth, who took the time on her first Sunday as our pastor to make the trip to Burlington after church, and who visited me several times in the hospital and at home.
- * The Klohcks, Colleys, Rowells, Lee Adkins, Gus Jordan, Linda Connor, Clay Wagner, and anyone else I may not know about, who visited me in the ICU at Fletcher Allen, during "the worst of times". I did not even know you were there, but you were all a wonderful support system for Don, and we are both so glad for your caring presence.
- * Kevin Parizo, who had me on every prayer chain in Addison County.
- * Everyone from the Middlebury and East Middlebury congregations who called, prayed, cried, phoned, sent cards, or visited. You know who you are. I love you all.

I am a very, very lucky woman, and I am alive today because of the grace of God and the power of prayer. There is not enough room in this newsletter to thank everyone personally, but it is my sincere hope that you all know how much my church families mean to me.

Eileen Rinker



Middlebury Outreach Committee

The Middlebury Outreach Committee will be meeting for a potluck and discussion on Friday, October 7 at 6:00 PM at the home of Tom and Sue Colley.

Spaghetti Supper/Silent Auction

The Middlebury youth are hosting a spaghetti supper and silent auction on Saturday, October 9 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. The cost for the meal is \$7.00. All money raised will go toward Vermont flood relief efforts.

They would like for people to donate services/goods for the silent auction. For example, if you would like to bake a pie or cake to be auctioned off, that would be great. Or you might offer to rake someone's yard, or cater a meal, or babysit. Or you might put together a gift basket. All donations are welcome. To donate an item for the auction or for more information, contact Pastor Elisabeth.

Middlebury Budget Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend a budget discussion meeting on Sunday, October 9 right after church. (You may bring a sack lunch if you want.) The Finance Committee would like your input as they prepare the 2012 budget. What are the things that matter most to you? What programs/ministries would you like to see funded? Some of the items that we budget are beyond our control (fuel costs, insurance, etc.), but we would like to know what you think about how we put together the rest of the budget.

Elisabeth Von Trapp in Concert


Elisabeth Von Trapp will be in concert at the Middlebury church on Sunday, October 9 at 4:00 PM. There will be a free will offering. CDs will also be available for purchase.

Charge Conference

Our annual charge conference will be held on October 30 at 2:00 PM at the Bristol Federated Church. If you have a report that needs to be included in the booklet, please turn it in by Sunday, October 16 so that copies can be made and the booklets put together.

Contemporary Worship is a Hit!

We have been enjoying the contemporary worship service on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at the Middlebury church. Members of East Middlebury are also welcome to attend. It has been a good time of singing, praising, praying, and reflecting together on some of the people who encountered Jesus and experienced life changes. Come and find out what the excitement is all about!





We include the following in our prayers:



Adkins' cousin, Tim
Betty Austin
Mona Austin
Family of Kim Bilodeau
Madeline Cone
Julie Coons' mother, Joan
Cora Dragon
Sue Flanagan
Betty Hampel

Jim Holden
Bea Jochum
Tammy Keller,
friend of Pastor
Elisabeth
Burt Kimball
Pam Ladeau
Dennis LaFontaine
Joan Malloy

Cary Marshall
Murray family
Myers family
Zander Paige
Caroline Perine
Steve Perry
Cliff Piper
Mary Jo Richards

Len Rowell's
sister, Andrea
Chal Schley
Doris Senecal
Doug Tolles
Rene Tougas
Bob Warner
Barbara Wheelock

**Worship
in October**

October 2

World Communion Sunday
"One in the Spirit"
Ephesians 4:1-16; Psalm 19; John 17:20-26

October 9

"American Idols"
Exodus 34:1-14; Psalm 106; Philippians 4:1-9

October 16

"Setting an Example"
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Psalm 99; Matthew 22:15-22

October 23

"The Two Commandments"
Matthew 22:34-40; Psalm 90; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

October 30

Reformation Sunday
"Time to Make a Change"
Matthew 23:1-12; Psalm 107; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Suggestions from the People at the Food Pantry

Reported by Mimi Hardy

After talking to Donna at CVOEO the last time I took our church donations there, I decided to add the following list of donations needed.

There is a great need for paper products like toilet paper, Kleenex, diapers, and paper towels. Also needed are toiletries like shampoo, conditioner, band aids and hand soap. Dish soap, laundry soap, and cleaning supplies are also needed.

The above items cannot be purchased with food stamps and are often gone without. I hope you will donate some of these items in the future.

Pauline O'Brien is doing a great job reminding us to bring donations.

October Calendar

Sundays	East Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal	8:30 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Family Worship	9:00 a.m.	E.Middlebury UMC
	Family Worship	10:45 a.m.	Middlebury UMC
Thursdays	Middlebury Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Middlebury UMC



- Sun, Oct 2 World Communion Sunday
CROP Walk
- Mon, Oct 3 6:00 PM Middlebury Finance Committee
7:00 PM Middlebury Administrative Council
- Tues, Oct 4 10:30 AM Community Lunch
6:30 PM PPRC
- Wed, Oct 5 10:30 AM Community Lunch
5:00 PM Walk Fit at Middlebury
7:00 PM Contemporary Worship at Middlebury
- Thur, Oct 6 7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
- Fri, Oct 7 6:00 PM Middlebury Outreach Committee Potluck at the Colley's
- Sat, Oct 8 1:00 PM Wedding of Terry DeYoung and Ron Bessette
5:00 PM Middlebury Youth Spaghetti Supper/Silent Auction
- Sun, Oct 9 12:00 Noon Middlebury Budget Meeting
4:00 PM Elisabeth Von Trapp Concert at Middlebury
- Tues, Oct 11 11:00 AM Worship at Porter Rehab
1:00 PM Worship at Project Independence
6:30 PM Middlebury Trustees
- Wed, Oct 12 1:00 PM East Middlebury Administrative Council
5:00 PM Walk Fit at Middlebury
7:00 PM Contemporary Worship at Middlebury
- Thur, Oct 13 7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
- Sun, Oct 16 Charge Conference Reports Due
- Mon, Oct 17 2:00 PM Middlebury UMW
- Wed, Oct 19 9:00 AM Middlebury Area Clergy Meeting at Middlebury
5:00 PM Walk Fit at Middlebury
7:00 PM Contemporary Worship at Middlebury
- Thur, Oct 20 7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
- Fri, Oct 21 – Sat, Oct 22 Middlebury Rummage Sale
- Mon, Oct 24 – Sat, Oct 29 Pastor Elisabeth on vacation
- Tues, Oct 25 10:30 AM Community Lunch
- Wed, Oct 26 10:30 AM Community Lunch
5:00 PM Walk Fit at Middlebury
7:00 PM Contemporary Worship at Middlebury
7:00 PM East Middlebury Trustees
- Thur, Oct 27 7:00 PM Middlebury Choir Rehearsal
- Sun, Oct 30 Reformation Sunday
2:00 PM Charge Conference at Bristol Federated Church

The United Methodist Church
Middlebury ♦ East Middlebury
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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